

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 /097 W
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R 251704Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1038
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 08683

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, SP
SUBJ: BRUSSELS PRESS CONFERENCE OF SPANISH SOCIALIST
OFFICIAL

1. ALTHOUGH IT HAD BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED HERE THAT
PSOE LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ WOULD LEAD A SOCIALIST PARTY
DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS JULY 24-25 TO MEET BELGIAN
SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS AND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
SIMONET, THE SPANISH SOCIALISTS WERE IN FACT HEADED BY
DINO YANEZ--IDENTIFIED AS A PSOE "REPRESENTATIVE"--WHO
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 25. YANEZ SAID THE BELGIAN
SOCIALIST PARTY HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE "POLITICAL AND
TRADE UNION SCHOOLING" FOR GROUPS OF SPANISH SOCIALISTS
TO "HELP PREPARE US FOR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT" AND
THAT PSOE GROUPS WOULD SOON START COMING TO BRUSSELS FOR
THAT PURPOSE. HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT FONMIN SIMONET
HAD SAID THAT "ONE CANNOT SAY NO" TO SPAIN'S APPLICATION
FOR EC MEMBERSHIP, WHICH WILL BE HANDED TO SIMONET BY
SPANISH FONMIN OREJA LATER THIS WEEK.

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2. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, YANEZ SAID THAT THE PSOE, LIKE
ALL SPANISH POLITICAL PARTIES EXCEPT FRINGE GROUPS ON
THE EXTREME RIGHT AND EXTREME LEFT, SUPPORT EC MEMBER-
SHIP. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE CORTES DEBATES THE ISSUE,
DISCUSSION WILL CENTER ON THE MODALITIES OF ACCESSION
NEGOTIATIONS AND ULTIMATE MEMBERSHIP, RATHER THAN ON

WHETHER SPAIN SHOULD JOIN THE EC. ACCORDING TO YANEZ, SINCE "DEMOCRATIC EUROPE" HAD NOT INTERVENED DECISIVELY IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR TO THWART FASCISM, IT HAS A "MORAL DEBT" TO SPAIN WHICH CAN BE REPAYED BY ACCEPTING SPAIN IN THE EC. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT SPANISH ACCESSION WOULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR SOME PRESENT EC MEMBER COUNTRIES, YANEZ ARGUED THAT THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES WOULD OUTWEIGH ANY TEMPORARY ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT WESTERN EUROPE'S SOCIALISTS DO NOT UNANIMOUSLY WELCOME SPAIN'S EC APPLICATION. HE SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS ACCEPT THE POLITICAL CASE FOR SPANISH MEMBERSHIP, BUT FEAR THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES. NOTING THAT SOME FRENCH SOCIALISTS TALK ABOUT A LONG TRANSITION PERIOD TO FULL EC MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN, YANEZ SAID HIS PARTY IS AWARE THAT ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE PROLONGED, BUT IT WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY PRE-ACCESSION PERIOD FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC AND SPAIN'S ASSUMPTION OF FULL MEMBERSHIP.

3. ACCORDING TO YANEZ, FELIPE GONZALEZ EXPECTS TO LEAD A PSOE DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS IN SEPTEMBER FOR TALKS WITH BELGIAN SOCIALISTS AND, PERHAPS, EC OFFICIALS. HINTON

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